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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOST).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 1, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MIKE BOST to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2016, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

DISCOVERY, DEVELOPMENT, AND DELIVERY OF NEW CURES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the House passed the 21st Century Cures Act with a vote of 392-26. I was proud to support the Cures Act that expedites the discovery, the development, and the delivery of new cures for illnesses and disabling conditions where none exist today. This legislation also included long overdue reforms to our Nation's mental health system.

Mr. Speaker, the text of the Cures Act additionally contains my Special Needs Trust Fairness Act language. This corrects a civil rights oversight or issue for persons living with any disability to be allowed to establish their own special needs trust. Without this legislation, the way the law exists today, a person, any person living with a label of a disability, is deemed incompetent to be able to set up and manage their own special needs trust. Their parents can do it, their grandparents, a court-appointed guardian, but they are deemed incompetent.

I want to thank my colleagues for their support, and encourage the Senate to take swift action on the Cures Act that contains all this language.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF DR. DAVID WRIGHT

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Dr. David Wright, a dedicated public servant and community leader from Clarion County, Pennsylvania, in Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District. He was a beloved professor and department head at Clarion University, where he passionately taught for nearly 30 years.

Dr. Wright also served in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives from 1976 to 1996. His 20-year tenure is the longest served in the State house by any Representative from Clarion County.

As a house member, Dr. Wright served as chairman on several committees and took on various leadership roles. He continually advocated for rural Pennsylvanians and authored language that created the Center for Rural Pennsylvania. He also played a major role in establishing the State System for Higher Education, which unified Pennsylvania's 14 State colleges into a comprehensive system.

Dr. Wright passed away on November 18, at the age of 80, leaving behind a legacy that will continue to benefit Pennsylvanians for generations to

come. My thoughts and prayers are with the Wright family.

RECOGNIZING 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN TREE FARM SYSTEM

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 75th anniversary of the American Tree Farm System, the largest and oldest woodland certification system in the Nation.

The American Tree Farm System was founded in 1941 to protect landowners across the country and help meet the growing demand for forest products. In 1954, the Principles of the American Tree Farm System created a system for tree farm certification, establishing a clear outline for proper forest management and conservation.

Today, the American Tree Farm System is comprised of more than 70,000 individuals and families that manage more than 20.5 million acres of forest. These tree farmers benefit our Nation's forests and our economy, while providing timber, homes for wildlife, recreational space, and clean water.

In honor of its legacy, last June I introduced H. Con. Res. 144, bipartisan legislation celebrating the American Tree Farm System and recognizing the 75th anniversary.

I congratulate the members of the American Tree Farm System on this remarkable milestone and applaud their work with landowners and foresters across the United States.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION AND U.S. FOREIGN POLICY TOWARD ISRAEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, day by day we are learning more about the future Trump administration, and as the picture becomes clearer, usually the news is troubling.

One of the most unsettling indications about the Trump administration

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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